

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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An exposure control device accurately adjusts exposure even when photographing the operator. An area integration circuit divides a photographed image into a central area and a peripheral area to integrate corresponding video signals for the respective areas. When the operator of a notebook personal computer sets the direction of an image pickup unit to photograph themselves, a control microcomputer multiplies the respective areas by weights so that the weight of the central area is larger than the others, and then adds two integration results. The control microcomputer sets the addition result as exposure information, compares the exposure level indicated by the information with a reference level, controls an electronic shutter of an image pickup device and a gain of an amplifier circuit so that the exposure level coincides with the reference level, and adjusts the exposure of a video camera to a proper level. When the image pickup unit is set in the direction opposite to the operator, the conventional exposure control is performed.